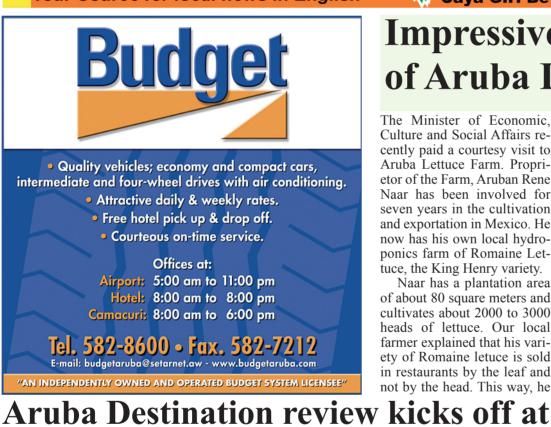


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Saturday, May 19, 2012

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Aruba Marriott

Impressive system and operation of Aruba Lettuce Farm

The Minister of Economic, Culture and Social Affairs recently paid a courtesy visit to Aruba Lettuce Farm. Proprietor of the Farm, Aruban Rene Naar has been involved for seven years in the cultivation and exportation in Mexico. He now has his own local hydroponics farm of Romaine Lettuce, the King Henry variety.

Naar has a plantation area of about 80 square meters and cultivates about 2000 to 3000 heads of lettuce. Our local farmer explained that his variety of Romaine letuce is sold in restaurants by the leaf and not by the head. This way, he



claims, there is absolutely no waste, because the entire leaf is green and completely edible.

Rene Naar told his story of how he came back to Aruba with the attitude of not expecting his country to give him anything, but how he could help and give something to his country. That is how he decided to..."start my own project and so contribute to Aruba by offering my country a healthy product." And, he said, he was pleased to learn that the government had/has the vision

of encouraging our people to cultivate sustainable products with nutritional value for local consumption and to help the economy.

The Miniser of Economic Affairs visited Rene Naar's plantation to see for herself how it is functioning and how he could work together with Aruba Investment Bank through their "Small & Medium Enterprise Program" to help Aruba Lettuce Farm to grow.

Continued on page 2



See coverage on page 2





Operation of Aruba Lettuce Farm

Continued from page 1





There is undoubtedly a large demand for the product being cultivated by this new company. Naar has already sold his entire crop to a group of restaurants and they have indicated that there is a necessity for the product.

The Minister informed our local farmer that in accordance with the vision of the government, the government has made available through the

AIB program, professional guidance and coaching for entrepreneurs with ideas to help them in the process of getting set up.

The Minister was impressed with the Aruba Lettuce Farm and wondered how the government could help the company expand the Romaine Lettuce production, and potentially cultivate other products.



"Where Everyone is Welcome"

 $\label{eq:management} \mbox{Management reserves the right to discontinue this promotion at any time.}$

Aruba Destination review kicks off at Aruba Marriott



DOSM Antoinette vd Berg (Marriott), Sanju Luidesn (ATA) Stephanie Koole (De Palm) and Jerusha Rasmijn, Darice Solognier ACB) at Marriott



Experient Meeting Planners Alisa and Anthony

From May 17 – 21, 2012 the Aruba Convention Bureau hosts its annual Aruba Desti-

nation Review, a program for meeting planners. This year a total of twelve participants

> from North America visit the island to experience the destination, offerings to potential groups and to connect with the Aruba hoteand liers destination management companies.



Marriott Dir Sales & Marketing Antoinette vd Berg welcomes delegates

The kick off breakfast took place at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, where Hall Davis, U.S. representative of the Aruba Convention Bureau provided a brief presentation about Aruba. Antoinette van den Berg, Director of Sales & Marketing for the Aruba Marriott thanked the delegates for their interest in Aruba and announced the upcoming enhancements of the resort, a renovation of the Grand Ballroom.

After breakfast a site inspection through the hotel was conducted, providing the meeting planners information about the resort and introducing its newest amenity the H2Oasis adult pool.

Over the next few days, the North America delegates have a funfilled program including a jeep safari tour and sunset sail.



US Meeting planners Roshni and Su

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Recycling phonebooks results in big rewards for island schools and students



First, second and third place individual winners. L.-r. Xenon Noguera, Soraine Leonard and Ivano Geerman

The Aruba Yellow Pages partnered with SETAR NV, the island's national telecommunications provider and Ecotech, waste management, in providing incentives over the last few months for schools and students to become more environmentally aware.

A collection campaign of last year's telephone books began in January, with the enthusiastic participation of most of Aruba's elementary schools. Over 27,000 phonebooks from 2011 were collected to be shipped out for recycling.

Tuesday evening, May 15, Yellow Pages hosted an informal celebration of the results at SETAR headquarters in Sabana Blanco, with an awards ceremony conducted by Pam Roach, Marketing Manager for



Pam Roach thanks Chiam Churino of Eco Tech

Yellow Pages, Eastern and South Caribbean along with Marjolein Rodriquez, General Manager of the Aruba edition.

Top three schools for the most phone books collect are, in ascending order, Princess Amalia and Reina Beatrix which received gift certificates from Antraco; Paulus School claimed a laptop computer for their winning efforts. All participating schools received an engraved glass trophy for encouraging their young students to be part of this community effort.

Individual winners for third and second place who also received gift certificates were: Ivano Geerman, who collected 1297 books, second place and Soraine Leo-Second place school Reina Beatrix nard, with 1321. Xenon Noguera, first place winner with 1425 defunct phonebooks ceived an Amazon Kindle Fire for his achievement.

SETAR and Eco Tech were recognized for their enthusiasm in the "without project, which it could not have been possible," commented Pam Roach. by Rosalie Klein



Shahaira Labad of SETAR awards Paulus school





Third place school Princess Amalia







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Billboard Music Awards this Sunday on ABC, local channel 14

BLANCO Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V. reminds all SETAR Cable subscribers to watch the thrilling Billboard Music Award 2012 this Sunday on ABC, channel 14. The event will be broadcast from the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Billboard Music Awards are an acknowledgement of the famous namesake magazine, the world's most influential music media brand reaching key executives and tastemakers in and around the music business. After a few years of being postponed, the event started again last year with Janet Jackson walking away with most of the awards.

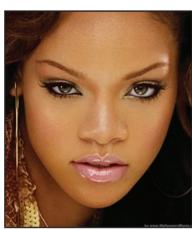
This year's favorite is Adelle, nominated as Best Artist, Best Female Performer and Top Billboard 200 Album, among others, followed by LMFAO, the American electro pop duo, nominated in 17 different categories.

Other finalists are Rihanna, Lady Gaga and Lil Wayne. There will be different presentations by a constellation of musical luminaries including Carrie Underwood and Justin Bieber. Don't miss this event this Sunday starting at 8 p.m. on ABC, locally, channel 14.

For more information of this event readers can the website www.billboard.com.



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Rihana



Lady Gaga



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Dog lovers have fun while supporting **Foundation Cas Animal thanks to** Senor Frog's



Cas Animal receives a special donation from Five Burgers

Senor Frog's demonstrated their community spirit this past Wednesday, May 16, by hosting a fundraiser for the Cas Animal Foundation, which rescues stray dogs off Aruba's streets and is in the process of building Aruba's first fully-equipped no-kill shelter.

Kirsten Arndt, founder of Cas Animal and Lori Martin, volunteer organizers of the fundraising event expressed their sincere gratitude to Senor Frog's for their generous gesture and to sponsors

- 5 Burgers
- Mad Hatter
- · Ventanas Del Mar at Tierra



- Body & Soul Spa
- T.H. Palm
- La Vie Medi Spa

Del Sol

- Aquarius Restaurant at the Renaissance
- · Sunset Grille at the Radisson
- La Cabana Beach Re-
- Pachanga Dance Stu-
- Balashi Brewery For donating dinners, spa treatments, weekend stays, logo hats and flip flops, gift certificates and dance lessons as raffle prizes for the event.

Continued on page 5



Kiki and Lori with supporters of Cas Animal



Kiki, Lori and the Senor Frogs crew



Wilders takes Dutch state to court to head off EU emergency fund

THE NETHERLANDS --Geert Wilders is taking legal action against the Dutch state in an effort to stop the Netherlands supporting the European financial emergency fund.

Bram Moszkowicz, the lawyer who represented Wilders when he was charged with inciting racial hatred, will head the legal team, the parliamentarian told the Telegraaf this week.

Wilders claims by supporting the fund, the Netherlands is handing over power to Brussels. This, he says, is something the caretaker government cannot do without giving voters their say first.

The Netherlands goes to the polls to elect a new parliament in September, but the emergency fund has to be ratified before this. The fund, which will have at least €500bn at its disposal to start with, is due to launch in July.

Prime minister Mark Rutte has already signed the agreement but parliament needs to give its approval as well.

Wilders told the paper his decision to go to court is unique in parliamentary history, but denied it was an election stunt. 'I am defending the interests of the Netherlands,' he told the paper. He earlier failed to get enough support in parliament to call a halt to the ratification process.

The PVV leader has said several times he intends to make the election campaign a referendum on Europe.

Dog lovers have fun while supporting Foundation Cas Animal. . .

Continued from page 4

Senor Frog's and Rosie Wallisever of Mad Hatter and 5 Burgers also were happy to add a little extra into the pot to assist Cas Animal in paying for the greatly needed replacement Animal Ambulance; the principal purpose of the event.

For 15 years Kirsten Arndt has been taking stray dogs off Aruba's streets, some in the worst of condition, to rehabilitate them physically and psychologically. She can be reached at 742-8732 to report a dog in distress. Feeding and

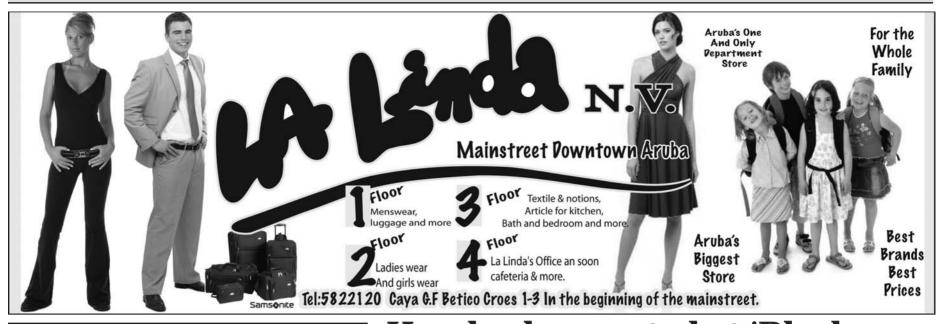
veterinary care for the more than 100 dogs she shelters in her home is astronomical; if anyone wishes to help, they can support her cause by donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382, as well as making donations directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110.

She hopes to find a good

home for the dogs in her care and if any are interested in adopting one of Aruba's unique "cunucu" dogs, she will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think. They require examination and certification by a qualified vet to pass quarantine standards prior to departure; Kiki will also help in obtaining a dog transport and getting them to the airport, if needed, even it is not one of from her shelter.

by Rosalie Klein





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Trayvon evidence fails to answer who screamed for help

ORLANDO - An FBI expert found crucial evidence in the Travvon Martin case was inconclusive, saying it was impossible to tell if the voice screaming for help belonged to the black Florida teenager or his shooter George Zimmerman just before the neighborhood watch captain pulled the trigger.

That detail came from a mass of evidence made public on Thursday in the case that sparked civil rights protests across the United States and debates over guns, self-defense laws and race relations in America.

The documents confirm numerous compelling facts and minutiae that have been debated at kitchen tables and on television sets across the country following the February 26 homicide when Zimmerman, 28, shot and killed the 17-yearold Martin.

Police initially declined to arrest Zimmerman, citing Florida's "Stand Your Ground" self-defense law, but a special prosecutor who was subsequently appointed charged

Zimmerman with second-degree murder. Zimmerman has pleaded not guilty.

The nearly 200 pages of documents plus photographs, videos and audio recordings provide evidence that will be seized upon by both Zimmerman's supporters and his detractors, including the revelation that Martin had traces of marijuana in his system and a witness who described the teen as beating on Zimmerman in the style of mixed martial arts.

But what may be the central point of contention - who screamed for help? - goes tantalizingly unanswered.

If it was Zimmerman, it would confirm his story that he pleaded for assistance against the teenager who was brutally beating him. If it was Martin, it could establish Zimmerman was the aggressor who shot an unarmed teenager and would be a major component of a case for second-degree murder.

Relatives of both Zimmerman and Martin swear it was their kin who was pleading for his life.

Hundreds arrested at 'Blockupy Frankfurt' protests

FRANKFURT (AFP) - Police arrested more than 400 people in Frankfurt yesterday as thousands of anti-capitalist protesters defied a protest ban in Germany's financial centre.

A group calling itself "Blockupy Frankfurt" had called for four days of protests, from Wednesday to today, to paralyse Germany's financial capital and hinder the work of private banks and the European Central Bank

But the financial institutions reported little disruption. Many were closed for a public holiday Thursday and the banks were protected by a strong police presence.

Several protests took place

yesterday outside the ECB's huge Eurotower building in Frankfurt, as well as in the city center, a police spokeswoman

Police said most demonstrations passed calmly, while some activists claimed those who had been arrested were left for hours in police buses.

The city's mayor banned most demonstrations over public order concerns, though protesters have been given permission to march today.

Demonstrators hailed their action a success, with "Blockupy" spokesman Erik Buhn telling German television channel Phoenix: "We have revitalised civil disobedience."

Since Wednesday, about 5,000 police have been constantly deployed in Frankfurt and several streets were eerily quiet yesterday after metro stations were closed and shops barricaded.

On Wednesday, police cleared out a group of protesters from the "Indignant" movement who had camped for seven months in front of the ECB.

'Blockupy" activists hope tens of thousands of demonstrators will show up today.

Commerzbank, one of Germany's top banks, which occupies one of the biggest skyscrapers in Frankfurt, has said it would close until Sunday.

Lawyer doubts Libya 'able or willing' to try Kadhafi son

THE HAGUE (AFP) - A lawyer for Moamer Kadhafi's son Seif al-Islam said yesterday he doubted Libya was able or willing to try his client, as he asked the International Criminal Court to report the matter to the UN.

Xavier-Jean Keita, the defence lawyer appointed by the ICC, said in papers before the Hague-based court that despite several requests to meet Seif, Libyan authorities so far have not cooperated.

"Either they are stonewalling because they are concerned about what he might say to his council... or, they simply do not have the capacity to implement the visit," Keita said.

"Either conclusion undermines their assertation that they are either willing or able conduct proceedings against Mr Seif al-Islam."

Libya has been at loggerheads with the ICC over who has the right to bring former regime figures such as Seif and the dead dictator's spy-



Seif al-Islam

master, Abdullah Senussi, to

Both Seif and Senussi are wanted by the Hague-based court for crimes against humanity committed in trying to put down Libya's bloody revolt last year.

Tripoli in early May officially asked the ICC's judges to quash a surrender request and throw out the case, saying Seif would be put in a Libyan dock.

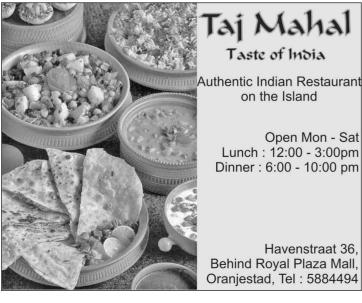
In order to challenge Tripoli's request, Keita said ICC defence lawyers have asked to see Seif to consult but to no avail.

"Multiple defence requests have been met with continued obfuscation and prevarication," Keita said, adding that Seif's defence were unlikely to take instructions from him before a June 4 deadline to file a challenge to Tripoli's request.

"The defence for Mr Seif al-Islam respectfully requests the honourable pre-trial chamber to report the noncompliance of Libyan authorities to the Security Council," he added.

He also asked ICC judges to stay Libya's admissibility challenge "due to Libya's non-compliance with the implementation of the fundamental rights of the defence."

Seif, 39, has been in custody in the Libyan militia town of Zintan since his arrest on November 19 last year, in the wake of the uprising that toppled his father's rule after more than 40 years in power.



International News

Dutch prosecutors seek ban on child sex advocacy group

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch prosecutors this week called for the disbanding of a paedophile group named Martijn which advocates consensual sex between adults and children, saying it threatened society.

"The banning and dissolution are necessary to avoid a dangerous situation for society," they told a civil court in the northern city of Assen, according to documents published online.

They said the group created a "sub-culture in which sexual relations between adults and children are tolerated and even glorified." Prosecutors turned to the Assen court after an appeals court in Leeuwaarden refused a plea to start a trial. The Dutch justice ministry last year said the association's activities were not illegal under the country's laws

Martijn's lawyer Bert Swier told AFP the group had committed no "reprehensible act," and added: "It's banning would be going against freedom of expression."

Founded in 1982, the group has about 60 members. Its former head Ad van den Berg was sentenced to three years in jail in October last year for possession of child pornography.

Former Colombia hostage arrested for allegedly helping insurgents

B O G O T A, C o l o m b i a - Sigifredo Lopez, 48, one of a dozen provincial lawmakers kidnapped by the country's main rebel group a decade ago has been arrested for allegedly helping the insurgents plan the daring daylight abduction.

Colombians were stunned Thursday by the arrest of Sigifredo Lopez in Cali on suspicion of helping the FARC in the 2002 for murder, treachery and hostage-taking of 12 from the provincial assembly building by the rebels disguised as security force members. The news was especially alarming because he was the only one among the 12 who escaped execution by rebels in 2007 under circumstances that remain unclear.

Lopez has said he survived because he was at a different location when the rebels committed the killings.

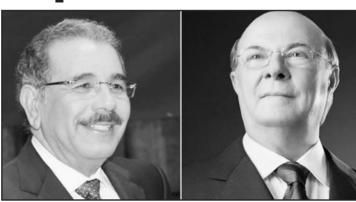
Officials in Colombia's chief prosecutor's office said various former guerrillas had provided testimony that Lopez participated in helping the FARC plan the mass kidnapping.

Officials also said the pros-

ecutor's office have a video compromising Lopez.



Veteran politicos in tight Dominican Republic election



(L) Danilo Medina and (R) Hipolito Meija

SANTO DOMINGO (AFP) - Two veteran politicians face off Sunday in a tight race to be the next president of the Dominican Republic, and both are portraying themselves as agents of change in the Caribbean nation.

Polls place the men far ahead of the four other candidates hoping to succeed the current president of the Caribbean nation, Leonel Fernandez, who cannot run again after two consecutive terms.

Danilo Medina from the ruling Dominican Liberation Party is facing ex-president Hipolito Mejia of the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party. Both represent centerleft parties, and both have a long career in national politics.

While Medina appears to have a slight lead, the surveys also say neither will be able to secure the 50 percent of votes needed to be elected in the first round, setting up a probable run-off election that would be a rematch of the 2000 round that Mejia won.

Although the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, has experienced sustained economic growth between 2010 and 2011, its economy is still largely dependent on tourism and international aid.

Social inequalities are growing, with 30 percent of the population living under the poverty threshold and unemployment hovering at 14.6 percent

"There's no money for food. Under Hipolito, everything was expensive, but at least there was money circulating," said Bone Arcangel, a 47-year-old seller of pumpkins who has six children.

Arcangel said he would vote for "Daddy" -- Mejia's nickname -- who was president 2000-2004.

In recent weeks clashes between Medina and Mejia supporters left two people dead. The candidates themselves have resorted to insults several times, leading the electoral tribunal to warn them to behave.

Observers say the leading candidates are struggling to convince voters that they represent true change.

Mejia's mandate was marked by his government's inability to tackle the global financial crisis, while his rival is considered an heir of the current regime.

Non-partisan citizens "are sick and tired of more of the same. They expect real change from the two candidates marked by a willingness to do

things differently, which will be the big challenge of the next government," analyst Rafael Toribio said.

Mejia, a charismatic 71year-old agricultural entrepreneur, has focused his attacks on the current government's "corruption and theft." He casts himself as the only viable alternative to this "immorality."

Medina, 60, is a former president of the Chamber of Deputies who twice served of secretary of state of the presidency. A coalition of 14 parties backs his candidacy.

During the campaign Medina vowed to continue the policies of president Fernandez, but also focus on boosting production and employment. He has promised to build homes for the poor and picked Fernandez's wife, Margarita Cedeno, as his vice president.

Nearly 330,000 voters from the Dominican Republic's large expatriate community (estimated to number three million) will also head to the polls.

Some 6.5 million registered voters -- out of a population of 10 million -- will be called to the polls, which are due to open at 6:00 am (1000 GMT) Sunday.







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Health & Living

Fake pig ears latest China food scandal: report



(AFP) - Police in China are investigating after the discovery of a batch of "fake" pigs' ears reportedly made from gelatin, according to state media.

In the latest food safety scare to hit the country, the bogus ears were discovered in a market in Ganzhou city in the eastern province of Jiangxi in late March after a customer complained of a strange smell when cooking them, the staterun China Daily newspaper reported.

Food safety officials tested the "ears" and found they had

been made from gelatin and the chemical sodium oleate, commonly used in the production of soap.

China's government has repeatedly vowed to improve food safety as people grow increasingly alarmed about the quality of what they eat, but scandals still occur due to weak enforcement and unscrupulous business practices.

Photos circulating online showed local officials examining a box of the fake ears, which appeared light-brown in colour and to have a plasticlike texture.

The China Daily quoted an expert as offering a sure-fire method for telling real ears -- a popular delicacy -- from fake ones, saying the genuine article should have hair and small blood vessels.

The Jiangxi provincial health department could not be reached for comment on the latest case.

The investigation into the fake ears comes as authorities launched a probe into vegetable sellers in the eastern province of Shandong for spraying cabbages with the harmful chemical formaldehyde to keep them fresh.

Last year authorities arrested more than 30 people over the sale of cooking oil made from leftovers scooped out of gutters.

And in 2008, milk was at the centre of one of China's biggest food safety scandals when the industrial chemical melamine was found to have been illegally added to dairy products to give the appearance of higher protein content.

Early Signs of

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Autism

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Minorities overtake whites in US births

info@larrysfinejewerly.com

DIAMONDS MEMERALDS RUBIES SAPPHIRES TANZANITES 14K GOLD JEWELRY

WASHINGTON (AFP) - For the first time ever, white births in the United States are no longer in the majority, according to US Census Bureau estimates Thursday that underscored the growth of the Hispanic population.

Hispanics, blacks, Asians, indigenous peoples and those of mixed ethnicity or race accounted for 50.4 percent of births in the 12 months to July 2011, the federal agency said in a statement.

Leading the trend were Hispanics, who remained the biggest (52 million) and fastest-growing (up 3.1 percent from 2010) of all groups.

Whites still made up the largest single share of the total births, at 49.6 percent. They

also constituted a majority of the overall population of the United States at 63.4 percent.

Saturday, May 19, 2012

But as the Census Bureau projected in 2008, they will no longer be in the majority by 2042.

In absolute numbers, the Census Bureau put the national Hispanic population at 52 million, followed by African Americans at 43.9 million and Asians -- the second fastest growing minority group -- at 18.2 million.

The Census Bureau also reported "a small uptick" in the nation's median age to 37.3, and estimated the size of the current over-65 population at 41.4 million, including 5.7 million aged 85 or older.

'Good' cholesterol doctrine may be flawed, says study

PARIS (AFP) - Researchers on Thursday challenged a tenet of modern medicine that higher levels of "good" cholesterol automatically boost cardiovascular health.

In a study published in The Lancet, investigators said they found no evidence to back the belief that higher levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol routinely reduce the risk of a heart attack.

High concentrations of HDL are one of the big markers for blood tests.

They are monitored as much as low levels of "bad" cholesterol (low-density lipoprotein, or LDL) as a yardstick of dangerously clogged arteries.

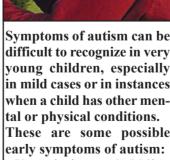
The paper used a method called mendelian randomisation to compare heart-attack risk among people who inherited known genetic variants that gave them higher HDL levels.

According to conventional wisdom, these individuals would have a lower risk of a coronary.

But the study, which looked at nearly 12,500 people with a history of a heart attack and over 41,000 otherwise healthy counterparts, found this was not always the case.

The results are important because of the use of drugs, sometimes inflicting side effects, which are administered to boost HDL cholesterol levels.





These are some possible early symptoms of autism:
--No pointing or babbling by age 1, or the absence of saying single words by age 16 months.

- --No response to calling the child's name.
- --Lack of early social or language skills.
- --No eye contact with others
- --Obsessive organizing or lining up of objects.

--Not smiling.



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Sci-Tech







UNITED STATES, -: A combination of 3 screengrabs taken from a video released on May 16, 2012 shows a paralysed woman lifting a drink to her lips with a thought-controlled robotic arm. On April 12 last year, the 58-year-old identified as "S3" made history by using her thoughts to maneouvre a robotic arm into grasping a bottle of coffee on a table, lifting it, and holding it to her lips for a sip. This was the first time in 14 years that the patient was able to bring any drinking vessel to her mouth and drink from it solely from her own will. The results of the ongoing clinical trial published in the journal Nature is the first peer-reviewed demonstration of reaching and grasping tasks using brain control of a robotic device.

AFP PHOTO/NATURE

Japan in first commercial satellite launch



AFP PHOTO / JIJI PRESS JAPAN OUT

Japan successfully put a South Korean satellite into space Friday, in its first foray into the European- and Russian-dominated world of commercial The separation of the KOMPSAT-3 satellite from the rocket was confirmed around 16 minutes after take-off, followed shortly afterwards by the separation of three Japan-

200-Year-Old Shipwreck Found in Gulf of Mexico

A newly discovered shipwreck in the Gulf of Mexico may have originally gone down 200 years ago. The ship is full of glass bottles, ceramic plates and boxes of muskets.

The shipwreck was discovered 200 miles (321 kilometers) off the Gulf Coast in more than 4,000 feet (1,219 meters) of water by a Gulf of Mexico mission led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The wooden hull of the ship has nearly disintegrated, but a greenish copper shell that once protected the ship's wood remains behind.

The first hint of the ship-wreck came in 2011, when a sonar survey by Shell Oil Company turned up an unknown blip on the seafloor. BOEM requested that NOAA explore such unknown blips during a recent expedition by the ship Okeanos Explorer. The ship returned April 29 from its 56-day mission ex-

ploring unknown areas of the Gulf

The research team also explored four shipwrecks on the ocean bottom. One, explored on April 19, was first discovered in the 1980s, but has only been investigated by deep-sea archaeologists twice. This wooden-hulled ship dates between the mid-19th and early-20th centuries, though its story is currently a mystery.

ese satellites also carried by the rocket.

It was the 21st launch since 2001 of the H-IIA rocket, which was developed by JAXA.

It has been operated by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) since its 2007 privatisation, JAXA spokesman Masashi Okada said. Its last six launches were Japanese government-related missions.

MHI hopes to carry out more contract launches and secure a foothold in a lucrative market currently dominated by Europe and Russia.

The satellite was developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute of South Korea to carry out earth observations, officials said.

The institute paid several billion yen (tens of millions of dollars), "the cheapest price in an international auction", the Sankei Shimbun reported, citing the institute.

The rocket also put into space JAXA's Shizuku satellite, which will be used to monitor the circulation of global ocean currents, officials said. The other two satellites were small experimental Japanese models.

European operator Arianespace successfully launched its Ariane 5 rocket with a Japanese and a Vietnamese satellite onboard from French Guiana on Tuesday.



PICKLES









MOMMA







CALVIN and HOBBES















ACROSS

- Beaver's creation
- 4. Bee's dwelling
- 8. Rainy mo. 11. Skating surface
- 12. Artificial waterway
- 13. Treasure
- 14. Departure's opposite (abbr.)
- 15. Despots
- 17. Crowbar, for one
- 19. R-V connection 20. Sudden disappear-
- ance sound 23. Idle and Clapton

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- 27. Non-dairy -
- 30. Kukla's friend 31. Reaction to
- an IM joke 32 Rita" 34. was
- saying..." (2 wds.)
- 35. Swedish pop
- group 37. Police cordon
- 40. Bell sounds
- 42. Irish Rose's boyfriend
- 43. Columbus Day mo.
- 45. Sticker 49. Bank of a stream
- 54. Street (abbr.) 55. Actress

- Zadora 56. Lower edges
- of a roof
- 57. Tractor-trailer
- 58. Hr. portion
- 59. Brown bird
- 60. Public notices

DOWN

- 1. TV tuner
- 2. Development measure
- "Jeopardy!" creator Griffin
- "Bali
- "Murder, _
- Cisterns
- 7. Make joyful 8. Time past
- 9
- annum

- 10. Apt. divisions 12. Computer game format
- (hyph.) 16. Gang's
- territory 18. Environ-
- mental agcy. 21. Poet's "over"
- Mexican artist 22.
- Kahlo 24. Modern
- Persia
- 25. Box
- 26. Bad mood
- Put your hands
- together 28. Dressing
- gown
- Napoleon's exile island 33. Spherical
- body 36. vera
- 38. Assistants
- 39. "Goodness!" 41. Metal
- fastener 44. Nicholas II,
- e.g. 46. Irene of
- "Fame"
- 47. Raring to go
- 48. Limbs 49. Dashboard
- abbr.
- Clock numeral
- 51. Eddie Halen
- 52. Possessive contraction
- 53. Rec room

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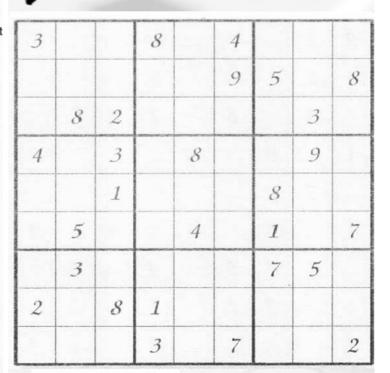
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Sudoku



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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Hollande, Obama want Greece to stay in eurozone

WASHINGTON (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande said yesterday after White House talks that he and US President Barack Obama shared the "same conviction" that Greece should remain in the eurozone.

In their first meeting since Hollande took office three days ago, the French leader pledged that growth must be the priority, maintaining his stance that austerity measures alone would not be enough to reverse the crisis in Europe.

Obama, alluding to the importance of the eurozone, told Hollande after the Oval Office talks that the region was of "extraordinary importance" not only to the people of Europe but to the wider global economy.

The talks between the two

Crossword	I F E R G
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SINWAY	TI O L
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REIGN	SUE
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FEEWHO	MITS
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ROUGHER	EEK
LEA	MESAS
SPEEDBUN	MPMALP
PASDEPO	TSIC
ADS ADAR	ASTA

leaders come amid frantic efforts to prevent a chaotic eurozone exit by debt-stricken Greece.

Leaders of the Group of Eight top economies will gather at Obama's Camp David retreat this weekend as the eurozone crisis rumbles on with Greece facing its second general election in just six weeks.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was en route to the United States, telephoned Greek President Carolos Papoulias yesterday to call for a stable Greek government to be formed quickly after the expected June 17 ballot.

Briton wins battle to head EBRD

LONDON (AFP) - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development yesterday selected British top civil servant Suma Chakrabarti as its president to 2016, replacing German incumbent Thomas Mirow after a shock vote.

Chakrabarti, 53, is the first EBRD president who is neither German or French.

His candidacy raised eyebrows as it broke a supposed unwritten rule that a Briton would not run for the presidency in return for the bank being headquartered in London.

Founded in 1991 to help former Soviet bloc countries switch and adapt to a market economy, the EBRD is hoping to soon start investing across Arab regions.

Chakrabarti will be tasked with supporting growth in former Soviet bloc countries and Arab nations hit by the eurozone debt crisis.

"In these economically distressing and uncertain times, the EBRD is an institution that has the financial standing and the resources to make a difference in the countries where we are active," Mirow said yesterday at the start of the bank's two-day meeting.

EBRD shareholders were to vote today on whether to approve investment of 1.0 billion euros (\$1.28 billion) for expansion into Arab regions.

After years of investing in mainly private-sector enterprises across mostly ex-communist nations in Europe and central Asia -- such as Hungary, Kazakhstan and Russia -- the EBRD has set its sights on Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan following the Arab Spring uprisings.



<u>Finance</u>

Facebook falls flat in market debut



Photo shows Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg remotely ringing the Nasdaq's opening bell yesterday in Menlo Park, California.

NEW YORK (AFP) - Face-book shares stumbled yester-day, managing a gain of less than one percent in the first day of trade, dampening optimism over the much-anticipated debut for the world's biggest social network.

The shares, priced at \$38 on Thursday in the largest-ever initial public offering (IPO), eked out a gain of 0.97 percent to end at \$38.37, with record volume of more than 550 million shares.

The shares jumped 12 percent to \$42.55 in the opening Nasdaq trades but within minutes fell back to the offering price. A midday rally pushed the price back up but just ahead of the close the price fell back to \$38.

"The negativity in the market overall has put a damper on the IPO," said Darren Hayes, a Pace University professor and former investment banker. "It's not uncommon in an IPO to see a big rise and then for the price to come back down, but I'm a bit surprised (by the market action) after all the hype."

"I think there may be some skeptical investors who see some challenges in the long-term outlook of the company."

Gerard Hoberg, an economist at the University of Maryland said there was enthusiasm from some buyers but skepticism from professionals.

"What I think is going on is you have a lot of bullishness from retail investors, people who use Facebook, and there's a lot of those investors creating a lot of buying pressure," he said.

"But professionals who were looking at the numbers behind Facebook had a lot more doubts, and that is cooling the issue quite a bit."

Hoberg said the market introduction "is not a disaster by any stretch, and you also could say that the Facebook owners are quite pleased because they didn't leave a lot of money on the table. But it will not be a pleasant taste in people's mouths if Facebook falls below \$38 anytime in the near future."

A report on the Business Insider financial blog said the price did not fall below \$38 because of a large number of standing orders at the offering price. The Wall Street Journal said the underwriting investment banks also stepped in to support the price.



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La Cabana Beach Resort opens newest art exposition "Earth"



ADC Director Siegfried Dumfries. Maria Teresa and Joe Najar



LC Boardmembers with birthday girl Jessica Franken



Ernesto Farro with works by Charito Chavez

The unveiling of the sumptuously refurbished lobby and community areas of La Cabana Beach Resort last year also heralded a policy of acquainting their guests with the fine aspects of Aruban culture. To this end, the resort decided to make the lobby and mezzanine as a showcase

for the work of noted island artists.

Curator for the collection is Maria Theresa Martinez, founder of MANA, a non-profit entity for encouragement of the arts. One Wednesday evening, May 16, La Cabana hosted a gala opening of the third such ex-



Earth Cries by Jani Croes



Touch of Aruba by Timothy Charles

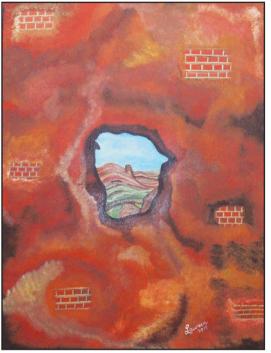
hibit, part of a series themed to the elements, "Fire" "Water" "Air" and "Earth."

The inspiration for the newest collection is "Earth", with 19 artists contributing 23 works displayed on the walls of the La Cabana reception area. Welcoming guests along with Maria Teresa and La Cabana General Manager Joe Najar was new director of Aruba's Department of Culture, Sigfried Dumfries, delivering, he admitted, his first welcoming address for such an event.

Mr. Dumfries expressed

his enormous pride in the quality of the work presented and his hope visitors to the gallery will enjoy these pieces as much as he does. The diversity of

diversity of techniques and mediums demonstrate the range of Aruban artists, map noteworthy and interesting piece is a relief sculpture by Frank Croes titled "Eruption," found just left of the main en-



Challenges by Laureen Eman



Eruption by Frank Croes

trance.

This newest exhibit will be on display for the next 3 months, when the final show in the Elements series will go on display.

by Rosalie Klein

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready in-

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and fami-lies, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast high-speed fiber-optic Intera shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.

net connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



rental cars, spa appointments activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while wel-coming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5" and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they rea unique menu.



ally want has resulted in Rosie and Aaron love their Burger



Gouda Burger 2

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized beach by calling 586-3904. with an incredible array of However, we suggest you toppings, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batterdipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the (mushrooms, stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy. to sit and chat while sharing 5 Burger portions are their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a



EURO 2012 - POLAND June 8 - July 1 - UKRAIN



No-nonsense van Marwijk adds steel to Dutch silk



Bert van Marwijk in 2010

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Bert van Marwijk may have led the Netherlands to the 2010 World Cup final but his methods were not to the taste of the man who embodies the country's lauded football culture.

"Spain, a replica of Barcelona, are the best advert for football," wrote Johan Cruyff of Holland's opponents on the eve of the World Cup final in Johannesburg.

'Who am I supporting? I am Dutch but I support the football that Spain are playing."

Cruyff would congratulate van Marwijk for his achievements after Spain prevailed in the final but the damage had already been inflicted: the team had come close to glory -- but it had not been done the Dutch way.

In the days that followed the final, the Netherlands found themselves pilloried for the aggressive way they had attempted to shake the Spanish out of their stride.

Their approach was typified by a chest-high foul on Xabi Alonso by Nigel de Jong that

escaped punishment by referee Howard Webb but which has come to resonate as an example of the steely pragmatism injected into the team by their coach.

The Netherlands have become a byword for underachievement in international football -- three World Cup final defeats, 24 years since their last major trophy -- and van Marwijk appears determined to end their reputation for style over substance.

"From day one, van Marwijk has said, 'I don't want that again. I want our team to win even on a bad day," said his biographer, Edwin Schoon, in an interview with Radio Netherlands Worldwide.

"So he put winning before attractive play, and he's hammered it home to his players, step by step, and incorporated it in his tactics by shoring up the defence."

The Dutch team that appeared at the World Cup may have been the antithesis of the side that capitivated the world with Total Football at the 1974 tournament. But two years on from South Africa, they are a far more crowd-pleasing prospect.

They scored more goals in qualifying for Euro 2012 (37) than any other side, and in Arjen Sneijder, Wesley Robben, Rafael van der Vaart, Robin van Persie and Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, possess some of the most talented forwards in the game.

For all his pragmatism as a coach, van Marwijk was a daring winger in his playing days, amassing 393 appearances in the Dutch Eredivisie with four

different clubs.

Capped once by his country, in 1975, he worked his way through the Netherlands' lower leagues as a coach before joining Feyenoord in 2000.

He took the club to UEFA Cup glory in 2002, overseeing a 3-2 victory over Borussia Dortmund in the final at Feyenoord's own De Kuip stadium.

It remains his most notable success as a coach. A subsequent two-year stint at Dortfailed to yield mund significant progress, although he did guide Feyenoord to the Dutch Cup in their 2008 centenary year after returning to the club in 2007.

As an international coach, however, his record is sensa-

Since replacing Marco van Basten after Euro 2008, he has seen Holland lose just four times in 45 matches, including a 100 percent record in qualifying for the last World Cup and a return of nine wins from 10 games in Euro 2012 quali-

His reward was a four-year contract extension last December, safeguarding his job until the next European Championship in 2016.

"The KNVB (Royal Dutch Football Federation) and myself agree that continuity and calm surrounding the Oranje is best," he said.

"That is why we chose to extend for four more years. That way everyone knows what is going to happen."

The 59-year-old may not be a unanimously popular choice but the future of Dutch football rests firmly in his hands.

the Indian Grill house

Lunch Buffet Saturday - Sunday

12:00 - 3 p.m.

Dinner Monday - Sunday 6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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Zinedine Zidane scores the winner in the European Cup final of 2002



Johan Cruyf, considered one of the best footballer Europe has produced, here in 1974



Fernando Torres of Spain scores the opening goal during the Euro Cup 2008 Final match between Germany and Spain.

Ireland to wear black armbands against Italy

DUBLIN (AFP) - Ireland will wear black armbands for their Euro 2012 match against Italy, the Football Association of Ireland said Thursday, in memory of a massacre in which six men died exactly 18 years before.

Six Catholic men died on June 18, 1994 in Northern Ireland when Protestant paramilitaries fired into a bar in the village of Loughinisland, where people had gathered to watch Ireland play Italy in the World Cup in the United States.

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) said it had approached the game's European authority UEFA and been

granted permission for the commemoration during the June 18 game in Poznan, Poland.

Northern Ireland, which remains part of the United Kingdom, has its own separate football team but it did not qualify for Euro 2012.

"What happened in Loughinisland in 1994 was an awful tragedy and deeply moving for all football fans," said FAI chief executive John Delaney.

"I would like to thank UEFA for assisting us in commemorating this atrocity and take the opportunity to remember all those who lost their lives in the Troubles."

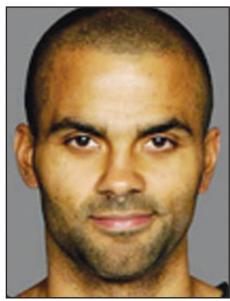
Four years after the mas-

sacre, the 1998 peace accords largely ended Northern Ireland's Troubles, three decades of sectarian violence between pro-British Protestants and republican Catholics that left more than 3,000 dead

The FAI added that the football team's gesture would be "particularly poignant" because the victims were watching Ireland play Italy when they were killed.

Niall Murphy, the solicitor acting for the families of those who died, thanked football authorities and said they were "touched that this tragic event can be commemorated on such a poignant day".

NBA: Spurs rip Clippers for 16th win in a row



Tony Parker

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) Tony Parker celebrated his 30th birthday by scoring 22 points on Thursday to lead San Antonio over the Los Angeles Clippers 105-88, stretching the Spurs' win streak to 16 games.

San Antonio took a 2-0 lead over the Clippers in the bestof-seven Western Conference second-round series, which continues with games three and four today and Sunday in Los Angeles.

The Spurs won their final 10 regular-season games and have opened the playoffs with six triumphs in a row.

French guard Parker, dou-

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ble-covered most of the night, also contributed five rebounds and five assists for the Spurs while Tim Duncan added 18 points and Boris Diaw, another Frenchman, contributed 16 points for San Antonio.

Parker, joking he could no longer deny he was an "old man", said he passed to Duncan and Diaw when shut down by the Clippers, but had more chances in the second half because of his teammates' scoring success.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich praised Parker's work ethic and attacking style both offensively and defensively in shutting down the Clippers' Chris Paul.

Tony did the lion's share of work," Popovich said. "He played a great game defensively. He did a hell of a job".

Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro is still searching for ways to stop playmaker Parker, who shot 8-of-19 from the field.

After winning 50 games to share the NBA's best regularseason record with Chicago, the Spurs have a home-court edge throughout the playoffs after the Bulls lost star Derrick Rose to an injury and were ousted by Philadelphia in the first round.

One reason for the Spurs' success has been the ability of Duncan and Parker to stay healthy during the grind of playing 66 games over four months as a consequence of the NBA money dispute that resulted in a compressed schedule.

Duncan, 36, has been a member of all four Spurs' NBA championship squads.

"He is getting older but he is still the backbone of the program," Popovich said. "He's the one we build around. He continues to rebound and play defense. We have gone to him a lot in these playoffs. He's still one hell of a player."

Duncan was also the perfect option when Parker found himself double covered.

San Antonio seized command in the second half after the Clippers rallied late in the second quarter to pull within 46-42 at half-time.

Del Negro lamented 18 turnovers by the Clippers, seven more than the Spurs surrendered.

Blake Griffin scored 20 points to lead Los Angeles but grabbed only one rebound while Paul, nursing an injured right hip, managed only 10 points and committed eight turnovers.

'Psychic' animals bid to emulate Paul the Octopus

PARIS (AFP) - Ahead of Saturday's Champions League final and with Euro 2012 just around the corner, animals of all shapes and sizes are queuing up to succeed Paul the Octopus, the famous clairvoyant cephalopod from the 2010 World Cup.

Paul, an octopus who lived at an aquarium in the German city of Oberhausen, rose to fame during the last World Cup for correctly 'predicting' the outcome of eight consecutive matches at the tourna-

The tentacled soothsayer, who picked winners by selecting food from boxes decorated with teams' national flags, passed away after the tournament, but there are now plenty of animals bidding to step into his (eight) shoes.

Ahead of today's Champions League showdown in Munich between Bayern Munich and Chelsea, a local sausage dog named Sissi and an octopus called Rosi from nearby Rosenheim have both predicted that Bayern will prevail.

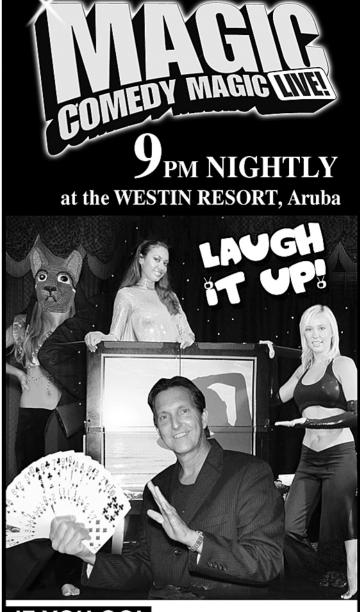
Meanwhile, Euro 2012 cohost Ukraine claims to have found a psychic pig with a snout for football who will be predicting results at the tournament.

The massive hog still has no name but is described by Kiev authorities in mystical terms that promise success similar to the one enjoyed by his eight-armed predecessor Paul.

The pig will be presented in the fan zone on the city's main avenue Khreshchatyk each match day at 4:00 pm local time once the tournament kicks off in co-host nation Poland on June 8.

The city administration issued a formal statement announcing it had found a "unique psychic hog who knows football secrets" and was proudly born and raised in Ukraine.

The pig is a well-loved animal in a nation famous for its 'salo' -- a thick slice of especially lardy bacon that Ukrainians eat raw on top of a small piece of rye bread.



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COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the theater door

GROUP SALES: (297) 561-1090

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MagicLive.com

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National League

East W L Pct GB

MLB Standings

American League								
East	W	L	Pct	GB				
BALTIMORE	25	14	.641					
TAMPA	24	15	.615	1.0				
TORONTO	21	18	.538	4.0				
YANKEES	20	18	.526	4.5				
BOSTON	18	20	.474	6.5				
Central	w	L	Pct	GB				
CLEVELAND	22	16	.579					
CHICAGO	19	21	.475	4.0				
DETROIT	18	20	.474	4.0				
KANSAS	15	22	.405	6.5				
MINNESOTA	12	26	.316	10.0				
West	w	L	Pct	GB				
TEXAS	24	15	045					
OAKLAND	20	19	.513	4.0				
LA ANGELES	17	22	.436	7.0				
SEATTLE	16	24	.400	8.5				

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WASHINGTON	24	15	.615	
ATLANTA	23	15	.605	0.5
NY METS	21	17	.553	2.5
MIAMI	20	18	.526	3.5
PHILADELPHIA	20	19	.513	4.0
Central	W	L	Pct (ЗB
ST. LOUIS	22	16	.579	
CINCINNATI	19	18	.514	2.
PITTSBURG	18	20	.474	4.0
HOUSTON	17	21	.447	5.0
MILWAUKEE	16	22	.421	6.0
CHICAGO	15	24	.385	7.5
West	W	L	Pct (ЗB
LA DODGERS	25	13	.658	
SAN FRANCISCO	19	19	.500	6.0
ARIZONA	17	22	.436	8.5

15 22 .405 9.5

14 25 .359 11.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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SAN DIEGO

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Flame arrives in Britain for 2012 torch relay





On May 10 the Olympic Torch has been lit in ancient Olympia

CULDROSE AIRBASE, United Kingdom (AFP) - The Olympic flame arrived in Britain from Greece on Friday to start a 70-day relay which will culminate in the opening ceremony of the London Games.

Princess Anne, the daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by football star David Beckham, carried the flame down the steps of a special British Airways jet at Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose in Cornwall, southwest England.

"It comes home to you just how important people regard the torch (relay) as the lead-up to the Games," said the princess, who herself competed in the 1976 Olympics in an equestrian event.

Beckham had the honour of lighting the torch that will be used for the 8,000-mile (12,875-kilometre) relay, from a cauldron at the airbase, as hundreds of spectators cheered.

Sailor Ben Ainslie, who has won gold in three Olympics, will be the first of some 8,000 torchbearers when the relay starts in Land's End, the southwesterly tip of England today.

The flame was handed over to the British delegation in a ceremony in Athens on Thursday and was transported from the Greek capital in a passenger jet painted gold and renamed The Firefly for the oc-

Organisers gained special permission from aviation authorities for the flame to be carried in the plane encased in a special lantern.

The weather in the Greek capital had been decidedly British, with heavy rain, but it was dry and breezy in Cornwall when the plane touched down

Chief organiser Sebastian Coe, who also went to Greece for the handover of the flame, said its arrival was "a magical moment for any host country".

The torch will visit more than 1,000 cities, towns and

villages on its journey to the Olympic Stadium in east London, as Britain hosts the Games for the first time since 1948.

The torch relay culminates on July 27 with the final leg from Hampton Court Palace, the riverside former home of king Henry VIII, to the Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony.

The torch is a reminder of the ancient Olympics, when a flame burned throughout the Games. The tradition was revived in 1936 for the Olympics in Berlin, when the Nazis used it for their own nationalistic purposes.

